



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **District Man Sentenced to 24 Years For Sexual Assault - Forced Way Into Victim's Apartment -**

WASHINGTON - Juan Felder, 23, of Washington, D.C., was sentenced today in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to a 24-year prison term for the beating and rape of a 23-year-old woman, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Felder pleaded guilty in August 2010 to charges of first degree sexual abuse and second degree burglary. In sentencing him today, the Honorable Judge Lynn Leibovitz also ordered that he be placed on lifetime supervised release once his prison term is completed. Felder also will be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

During his plea, Felder admitted to forcing his way into the victim's apartment in Northeast Washington as she was leaving for work at 3:45 a.m. on March 25, 2010, then beating, choking, and sexually assaulting her. When the victim opened the door to her apartment that day, she observed Felder, who she had never seen before, crouched by her door. Moments later, Felder asked whether she was getting on the elevator. Feeling that something was wrong, the victim pretended that she forgot something and walked back to her apartment door. She unlocked the door and entered her apartment. As she closed the door, she observed Felder rush from the elevators to her front door before she was able to completely close it. The defendant pushed the door open, causing the victim to stumble backwards further into her apartment.

Hearing screams from the ensuing attack, the victim's roommate called police as she cowered in fear in the corner of her bathroom. Shortly thereafter, the police arrived on the scene and arrested Felder. He subsequently admitted sexually assaulting the victim.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the outstanding work of Detectives Ingrid Harkins and Wallace Carmichael, Officers Kemal Johnson, Aaren Allen, Keith McAbee, Michael Touart, Tracee Chamberlain, Robert Johnson, and Frank Brown, as well as Mobile Crime Lab Technicians Robert McCollum and Leather Strong, all from the Metropolitan

Police Department. He also commended the work of Capitol Police officers Ronald Sweetman and Joseph Spadaro. He praised the work of paralegal Cynthia Muhammad and legal assistant Etta Ford. He especially commended victim advocate Veronica Vaughan for her dedication in working with the victims. Finally, he commended Assistant United States Attorney Sarah McClellan, who investigated and prosecuted the case.

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